



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Putting Others First”  
17th Sunday After Pentecost  
September 27, 2020  
10:30 a.m. Facebook Live Service**

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship  
and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

***Our Church’s Mission Statement***

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor  
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator  
Nicole Finney, Child Care  
Sue Sackett, Custodian  
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist  
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director  
Brandon Frost, Choir Director  
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

• 517-627-2336 • [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

## Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text.*

### MOMENT FOR CENTERING

### GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

### INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BELLS/CHIMES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who are weary, all who are tired.

**Many: We trust in God to renew us.**

One: Come, all who seek justice, who yearn for what is right.

**Many: We trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us.**

One: Come, all who are sick in mind, body or spirit.

**Many: We trust in Jesus to help us heal.**

One: Come, all who are lonely, all who are isolated.

**Many: We trust in God to bring us comfort and companionship.**

One: God is here, in your homes and cabins, in the hospitals and prisons.

**Many: May God grant us peace. Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN #564

“We Are Not Our Own”

*(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)*

### COLLECT PRAYER

(Borrowed with permission from Rev. Kaji S. Douša, Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ)

One: Please join me in prayer.

**Many: God, the encourager, God, the compassionate,  
God, the merciful, holy, blessed:**

**Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep.**

**Lift us into consciousness of your presence.**

**Change us, move us, mold us for the better;**

**So that, at the sound of your voice**

**At the call of our name**

**We will never be the same.**

**May this worship do this and so much more, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ANTHEM

“This Is My Song”

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 25:1-9 NRSV

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 2: 1-16 NRSV

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE #283

“Spirit of the Living God”

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

HOMILY

“Putting Others First”

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)*

OFFERING MOMENT

*Please give what you can, by mail or through prayers.*

*If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart [hartacre3@aol.com](mailto:hartacre3@aol.com)*

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: When we sin or make mistakes, our relationships with one another and with God becomes damaged. Whatever we've done bothers us deep inside and can fester. Confession allows us to lay down these burdens, to apologize, and make amends. It is the first step in committing to making a change in our lives to do something different, and the first step towards reconciliation. This Sunday, you are invited to offer your own confession to God. You may do so silently, or you may speak your prayer out loud.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Beloved ones, the good news is that God knows our hearts and knows that we want to do better. So, God sent Jesus to offer us a path towards righteousness—a path that will help us to fix our mistakes, to reconcile with one another and with God. But the good news is also this: ultimately salvation is given to you by God out of love and grace. So, know that you are forgiven and loved.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Glory be to you, O Lord.  
Blessed is the one who comes,  
Who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: We thank you, God, for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, renew our hearts,  
bodies, and minds, that we may return to the world, refreshed and better  
able to serve you, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #593

*(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)*

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
In the Lord, I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”  
*(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)*

*\*Please join us for a social distanced fellowship time at 1pm behind the church. Bring a chair, mask, and a drink. We'll provide individually wrapped snacks, extra masks and hand sanitizer. If you prefer to Zoom in, follow the link sent with today's bulletin.*

## CREDITS

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- **We Are Not Our Own**  
*(Brian Wren, 1987, © 1989 Stainer & Bell Ltd, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)*
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- **Spirit of the Living God**  
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- **Lift Every Voice and Sing**  
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- **Response: In the Lord I Will be Ever Thankful**  
*(Les Presses de Taizé, words 1986, © 1991 GIA Publications, CCLI #3091058, #20709045)*
- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation  
*(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)*

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### **SUNDAY ROSTER**

**Liturgist** - Troy Arient

**Homily** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Fresh Perspective** - Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Virtual Coordinator** – Chad Frost

**Music Coordinator** – Brandon Frost

**Organist** – Chuck Byam

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- For information regarding the UCC's response to the wildfires in the west, see:
    - [https://www.ucc.org/news\\_west\\_coast\\_fire\\_evacuations\\_take\\_toll\\_on\\_ucc\\_churches\\_camps\\_and\\_their\\_communities\\_09162020](https://www.ucc.org/news_west_coast_fire_evacuations_take_toll_on_ucc_churches_camps_and_their_communities_09162020)
    - [https://www.ucc.org/2020\\_wildfires](https://www.ucc.org/2020_wildfires)

# We Are Not Our Own

564

Brian Wren, 1987

Unison

1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing  
2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and  
3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly  
4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a-

vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.  
far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.  
known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.  
ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.

5 And if love's en-coun-ters lead us  
on a way un-cer-tain and un-known,  
All the saints with prayer sur-round us:  
we are not a-lone.

6 Let us be a house of wel-come,  
liv-ing stone up-hold-ing liv-ing stone,  
Glad-ly show-ing all our neigh-bors  
we are not our own!

*This hymn was commissioned for the tenth anniversary of the Liturgical Studies Program of Drew University, New Jersey, in 1987. Brian Wren's melody came to him early on in the writing process and was helpful in the creation of the final hymn text.*

Tune: YARNTON 8.9.8.5.  
Brian Wren, 1987  
Arr. Fred Graham, 1987

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Psalm 25:1-9 NRSV

To you, O God, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.  
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O God;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O God!

Good and upright is our God;  
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.  
God leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble the way.

## Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Shining as Lights in the World

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

## LIT EVERY VOICE AND SING



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the  
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing  
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y  
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the  
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our  
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the  
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a  
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the  
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our  
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the  
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the  
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march  
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white  
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 God, true to our na - tive land.